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Carnahan was appointed to the House Foreign Affairs Committee in February of 2006 after former Representative Bob Menendez (D-NJ) was appointed to fill a vacated U.S. Senate seat.

(WASHINGTON, DC) -- **Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3), a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, has been named the Vice Chair of the Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights, and Oversight. This Subcommittee has had its jurisdiction expanded in the 110th Congress, as it was formerly the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight. Congressman Carnahan views his new position on the Foreign Affairs Committee as an opportunity to do vital work at a very important time.**

The Subcommittee is responsible for oversight of international organizations such as the United Nations, the Red Cross and NATO, as well as programs designed to promote human rights around the world.

Carnahan has been committed to issues under the scope of this Subcommittee since his election to Congress, working on such issues as the crisis in Darfur and ensuring the United Nations and other International Organizations receive the funds they need. He is also a member of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, which was set up to defend the rights of the individual as defined in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, as well as playing a vital role in addressing human rights concerns in the U.S.

Regarding his appointment Carnahan said: **"As one of the only Midwestern members of the Foreign Affairs Committee, my Vice Chairmanship will ensure our Midwestern perspective is not lost in dealing with international issues. I am honored to have been given such an important responsibility, and I look forward to working with Chairman Bill Delahunt as our Subcommittee conducts vigorous oversight over U.S. foreign policy, including the war in Iraq."**